Himalayan Eco-preservation and Restoration fund if so, the details of the proposed fund;

(b) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(c) whether any joint meeting of the Himalayan States is being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Central Government has constituted an Expert Group to formulate a National Policy on the Himalaya for Integrated Development under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. Z. Qasim, Member Planning Commission. The Chief Minister. Himachal Pradesh while inaugurating the second meeting of the Expert Group held at Shimla in June, 1992 has suggested setting up of a National fund for Preservation and Protection of the Himalaya in effective manner, to be administered by the Planning Commission. No formal proposal in writing has been made to the Planning Commission in this regard.

(c) At present no joint meeting of the Himalayan States is contemplated.

Environmental schemes

1272. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan has agreed to include India in the field of a comprehensive economic cooperation in environment related schemes; and

(b) if so, what kind of help is Japan likely to provide to India in the matter of pollution control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Japan has shown interest in assisting India in the field of environment. In hte Eighth Aid India Consortium meeting held in June, 1992, in Paris, Japan has pledged a loan of Yen 17,773 million for the Yamuna Action Plan for pollution abatement and cleaning up of the River Yamuna. This is in addition to Japanese assistance for the 'Rehabilitation of Common Lands in the Aravalli Hills in Haryana and Afforestation and Pasture Development along the Indira Gandhi Canal.'

"पृथ्वी शिखर सम्मेलन'

1273. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री 8 जुलाई, 1992 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 11 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या इसी प्रकार का दूसरी पृथ्वी शिखर सम्मेलन भी आयोजित किए जाने का विचार है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) सरकार को इस प्रकार के किसी प्रस्ताव की जानकारी नहीं है ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Ban on Ivory trade

1274. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken measure to make the ban on ivory trade more effective under the Wild Life Protection Act in the light of vacation of stay by Delhi High Court as reported in the Indian Express (New Delhi) dated the 2nd June, 1992; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Chief Wild Life Wardens of states

and Union Territories have been asked to enforce the provisions of the Act with regard to trade in imported ivory effectively. Regional Offices of the Directorate of Wildlife Preservation have also been alerted to be on the look out for any illegal trading activity in ivory.

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में प्राकृतिक पर्यावरण

1275. **श्री शिव प्रसाद चनपुरिया :** क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के नैसर्गिक पर्यावरण को प्राकृतिक वनस्पति तथा भूमि की स्वाभाविक बनावट नष्ट करके चरणबद्ध तरीके से बिगाड़ा जा रहा है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसे रोकने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं तथा इसमें सरकार को कितनी सफलता मिली है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) हाल के वर्षों में देश के पर्यावरण और प्राकृतिक संसाधनों पर दबाव बढ़ा है ।

(ख) प्राकृतिक पर्यावरण की सुरक्षा के लिए विभिन्न विनियामक और संवर्धन उपाय शुरु किए गए हैं जिनमें अलग-अलग स्तर पर सफलता मिली है । इन उपायों में पर्यावरण की सुरक्षा के लिए विधायी उपाय और प्रवर्तन तंत्र और वनों एवं वन्यजीवों की सुरक्षा के लिए उपाय-वनीकरण और परती भूमि विकास, प्रदूषण निवारण एवं नियंत्रण, भूमि एवं मृदा क्षरण को रोकना, पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव मूल्यांकन, जनजागरूकता पैदा करना और गैर-सरकारी संगठनों का सहयोग लेना आदि शामिल है ।

Fresh water Dolphin

1276. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that fresh water dolphin is facing extinction; and

(b) if so, the measures Government propose to take to save it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The population of fresh water dolphin or the Gangetic dolphin has declined seriously over the years due to habitual restruction in rivers and unregulated fishing. According to IUCN Red Data Book, it has been classified as a vulnerable texa.

(b) The measures taken by the Government to save the species include:

(1) Steps have been taken to reduce the pollution in the river Ganga.

(2) The species is included in Schedule-I of the Wildlife Protection Act and enjoy total legal protection.

(3) A status survey of the species is being carried out in river Ganga to obtain information on biology and population of the species and to correlate the population with the quality of water of the river.

(4) A sanctuary for the protection of the species called Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary in a portion of the river Ganga has been notified in Bihar.

Seizure of Snake Skins

1277. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether snake skins worth over Rs. 10 lakhs were recently seized at the Indira Gandhi Airport, Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?